



*The Public Service Commission
State of South Carolina*

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Administrative Department
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April 19, 2019

Dear Ms. Ann C. King,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- Docket No. 2018-318-E - Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2018-318-E - Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order - <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/116871>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Becky Latimer
Clerks Office/Administrative Coordinator

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
803-896-5100

Sign up for Meeting Agenda Alerts: Text **PSCAGENDAS** to **39492**

April 16, 2019

Ann C. King

Effingham, SC 29541

RECEIVED
2019 APR 19 PM 12:55
SC PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

--Public Service Commission of S.C.
101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210

I am in full agreement with Mr. Weber.

Sincerely,

Ann King

Letters to the Editor

Make our PSC protect our interests

In recent days there have been several articles about the new proposed rate hikes by Duke Energy Progress. When will our Public Service Commission put an end to Duke's insatiable greed? I have already written three letters about the three rate hikes already granted Duke Energy Progress by our PSC. When Progress Energy was my electricity provider, my rate was 9.98 cents per Kw-Hr. It is now 11.637 cents per Kw-Hr; this is an increase of 16.6%. Duke's excuse was that Progress Energy had not had a rate hike in 10 years.

Now Duke is requesting another 12.5% rate hike that will take my rate to 13.09 cents per Kw-Hr. This is a 31% rate increase since Duke acquired Progress Energy. In addition to this increase, Duke is requesting a basic facility charge increase. It is long past time for our PSC to say "No."

There is no doubt in my mind why Duke Energy Progress is requesting more rate hikes. Its parent company, Duke Energy, has recently been ordered by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to excavate all coal ash from its 14 former and current coal burning plants in North Carolina. This is going to cost the company as much as \$10 billion and take up to 30 years. The North Carolina utilities regulators are allowing Duke to pass only \$778 million on to their North Carolina customers. Duke must either eat the other \$9 billion, or find some other sucker to pass the cost to. That sucker is the South Carolina customers of

Duke Energy Progress. Our PSC is our only protection.

Duke's problems were of their own making, created by their deliberate actions of dumping coal ash into unlined pits to feed its greed. Duke had no intention of ever addressing these pits, even though they were polluting ground water, streams and rivers with poisonous metals. Five years ago, 70 miles of the Dan River was coated with Duke's coal ash. Now, rather than accepting responsibility, Duke wants to pass the cost of cleanup on to their customers so it can continue to pay large stock dividends so that the executives can get their bonuses.

Our only recourse is to communicate with our PSC and state legislators. The seven PSC commissioners are elected to four year terms by our General Assembly. We are paying each of these commissioners \$189,500 per year. This comes to about 25% of the commission budget. We must make them do the job of protecting us rather than being the pawns of the utilities they are supposed to regulate.

Contact the commissioners at Public Service Commission of SC; 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100; Columbia, SC 29210. The phone number is 1-803-896-5100.

Contact your state representative and senator to let them know how you expect the PSC Commissioners to perform. The squeaky wheel gets the grease.

LAWRENCE D. WEBER
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